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<u>COMMISSIONERS</u>	Arizona Corporation Commission DOCKETED
DOUG LITTLE – Chairman BOB STUMP BOB BURNS	AUG 1 9 2016
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IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF JOSHUA VALLEY UTILITY COMPANY, INC. FOR AN INCREASE IN RATES.

DOCKET NO. W-02023A-15-0315 DECISION NO. 75701

ORDER

Open Meeting August 9 and 10, 2016 Phoenix, Arizona

ANDY TOBIN

BY THE COMMISSION:

Having considered the entire record herein and being fully advised in the premises, the Commission finds, concludes, and orders that:

FINDINGS OF FACT

Procedural History

- On September 1, 2015, Joshua Valley Utility Company, Inc. ("Joshua Valley" or 1. "Company") filed an application with the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") for approval of a rate increase. The Company's application is based on a 2014 test year ("TY").
- On September 10, 2015, Joshua Valley filed an Affidavit of Customer Mailing, certifying that the Company had mailed notice of the above-captioned application on September 3, 2015, to each of its customers.
- 3. Between September 10, 2015 and September 18, 2015, various consumer comments were filed in the docket in opposition to the Company's proposed rate increase.
 - 4. On September 21, 2015, the Company filed an amendment to its application.
- On October 1, 2015, the Commission's Utilities Division ("Staff") filed a Letter of 5. Sufficiency, stating that Joshua Valley's application had met the sufficiency requirements as outlined

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in the Arizona Administrative Code ("A.A.C.") R14-2-103 and that Joshua Valley had been classified as a Class D utility.

- 6. On November 24, 2015, Staff filed a Request for an Extension of Time to File Staff Report, stating that Staff needed additional time, until January 5, 2016, to file the Staff Report in this matter, and stating that the Company had no objection to Staff's request for an extension of time.'
- 7. On December 3, 2015, by Procedural Order, Staff's request for an extension of time, until January 5, 2016, to file the Staff Report in this matter was granted and the timeclock in this proceeding was extended by twenty days.
- 8. On January 5, 2016, Joshua Valley filed a Motion for Extension of Time, requesting that the deadline for Staff to file the Staff Report in this matter be extended to January 22, 2016, because the principal manager for the Company could no longer participate in the Company's operations due to illness, and another person unfamiliar with the Company's operations is now responsible for the matters related to the rate case. The Company's motion stated that the Company's current situation had delayed the Company's response to Staff's data requests, and that Staff needed additional time to file the Staff Report.
- 9. On January 8, 2016, by Procedural Order, Joshua Valley's Motion for an Extension of Time, until January 22, 2016, for Staff to file the Staff Report was granted. Further, the timeclock in this matter was suspended.
- 10. On January 22, 2016, Staff filed its Staff Report, recommending approval of Joshua Valley's application using Staff's recommended rates and charges. The Staff Report directed that parties wishing to file comments related to the Staff Report must do so by February 1, 2016.
- 11. On February 1, 2016, the Company filed a Motion for Extension of Time, stating that the Company needed additional time, until February 5, 2016, to file its response to the Staff Report.
- 12. On February 5, 2016, by Procedural Order, the Company's motion for an extension of time was granted and the timeclock in this matter remained suspended.
- 13. On the same date, the Company filed its Response to the Staff Report, opposing some of Staff's recommendations.
 - 14. On March 4, 2016, Staff filed Staff's Response to the Company's Comments.

Background/Compliance

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¹ Staff Report at 3.

15. On March 31, 2016, the Company filed a Reply to Staff's Response. The Company continued to oppose several of Staff's recommendations, but did not request a hearing in this matter.

16. Joshua Valley is an Arizona for-profit "C" corporation engaged in the business of providing water utility service to approximately 947 customers in an unincorporated area known as Meadview, which is located approximately 70 miles north of Kingman, Arizona in Mohave County.

The Company's Certificate of Convenience and Necessity ("CC&N") area encompasses approximately 4.5 square miles.

The Commission's records show that beginning January 1, 2012, to November 23, 2015, 17. no complaints had been filed against the Company and that four opinions opposing the rate increase had been filed in this docket.1

- 18. According to the Commission's Utilities Division Compliance Section, Joshua Valley had no outstanding compliance delinquencies as of October 5, 2015.
- 19. The Company's water system consists of five active wells, four storage tanks, a pressure tank, and a distribution system with approximately 947 metered connections. The water system also includes two standpipes known as Unit 2 and Double Tanks. The Unit 2 standpipe is a coin operated, metered standpipe used by residents that live in the area and who must haul water because they are not within the vicinity of the Company's distributions mains. The Double Tanks standpipe is: used primarily by Mohave County road maintenance and construction; equipped with a lock and a 3-inch meter that is not functional; and water is being sold on an honor system. Staff stated that the Double Tanks standpipe is exposed to the elements and sometimes freezes during the winter months.
- 20. The Company's non-account water loss exceeds Staff recommended water loss of 10 percent or less. For the TY, Staff states that the Company had a non-account water loss of 17.42 percent. Staff believes the Company's non-account water loss is due to several factors that include: 1) old meters throughout the system that are registering inaccurate information; 2) meters that are only being replaced on an as needed basis; 3) water system infrastructure (installed in the 1960s) that has leaks; and 4) the

3-inch meter located at the Double Tanks standpipe that is not functional.

- 21. To correct the Company's non-account water loss issues, Staff recommends that the Company install a new meter on the 3-inch Double Tanks standpipe that is designed to function in freezing temperatures, within sixty (60) days of the effective date of a decision in this matter. Staff also recommends that the Company prepare a report containing a detailed analysis and plan to reduce the water loss to 10 percent or less. Staff states that if the Company believes it is not cost effective to reduce the water loss to less than 10 percent, it should submit a detailed cost benefit analysis to support its opinion. Staff states in no case shall the Company allow water loss to be greater than 15 percent. Staff recommends that the Company's water loss reduction report or the detailed analysis, whichever is submitted, be docket as a compliance item within ninety (90) days of the decision in this matter.
- 22. Staff's analysis of Joshua Valley's water system showed that the Company is unlikely to experience growth over the next five years and that Staff estimates that the Company will experience a decline in customers. Staff believes the Company's water system has sufficient production and storage capacity to serve its existing customers and reasonable growth.
- 23. According to Staff, Joshua Valley is in compliance with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality ("ADEQ"). Based on an ADEQ Compliance Status Report, ADEQ determined that Joshua Valley is currently delivering water that meets water quality standards as required by 40 CFR 141/ A.A.C. Title 18, Chapter 4.²
- 24. The Company's CC&N area is not located within an Arizona Department of Water Resources ("ADWR") Active Management Area ("AMA"). However, ADWR has determined that Joshua Valley's water system is in compliance with departmental requirements governing water providers and/or community water systems.³
- 25. Joshua Valley is in compliance with the Commission's Utilities Division Compliance Section.⁴
- 26. According to Staff, Joshua Valley has approved Curtailment and Backflow Prevention tariffs on file with the Commission.

² ADEQ Compliance Status Report dated July 22, 2015.

³ ADWR Compliance Status Report dated October 5, 2015.

⁴ Compliance Section Report dated September 16, 2015.

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⁵ Application at Exhibit 7. 27

⁶ On January 22, 2016, Staff filed its initial Staff Report recommending approval of Joshua Valley's application. Subsequently, on March 4, 2016, Staff filed a Supplemental Staff Report continuing to recommend approval of the Company's application and responding to Joshua Valley's comments/disagreements with the initial Staff Report. ⁷ Joshua Valley's Reply to Staff's Response at 13-15.

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27. Joshua Valley is current on its property taxes in Arizona.⁵

28. Staff recommends that the Company file with Docket Control, as a compliance item in this docket, within 90 days of the effective date of this Decision, at least three Best Management Practices ("BMPs") in the form of tariffs that substantially conform to the templates (located on the Commission's website) created by Staff, for the Commission's review and consideration. Staff also recommends that the Company, at a maximum, choose no more than two of the BMPs from the "Public Awareness/Public Relations" or "Education and Training" categories and the Company may seek cost recovery of the actual costs associated with the BMPs implementation in its next general rate case.

- 29. The Company does not oppose Staff's recommendations as set forth above.
- 30. Staff's recommendations are reasonable and we will adopt them.

Rate Application

- Joshua Valley is currently providing services under rates and charges established in 31. Commission Decision No. 64000 (August 30, 2001).
- 32. The Company has filed an application for a permanent rate increase, using a test year TY ending December 31, 2014. The Company's application states a rate increase is needed due to increasing expenses, decreasing usage, aging infrastructure, and needed repairs.
- 33. Joshua Valley's application seeks an increase in revenues in the amount of \$95,000, or 34.55 percent over TY revenues of \$274,958, to \$369,958.
- 34. Staff recommends approval of Joshua Valley's rate application, using Staff's recommended rates and charges.6
- There are two issues in dispute in this matter. The Company opposes Staff's 35. recommendations related to Plant-in-Service to be included in rate base and Staff's adjustments to labor and management expenses. The Company is in agreement with the remainder of Staff's recommendations.⁷ The Company did not request a hearing on the issues in dispute; therefore, they will be resolved herein.

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27 ¹⁰ *Id*.

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¹¹ *Id*.

Rate Base

- Joshua Valley proposed a fair value rate base ("FVRB") of \$859,068.8 The Company 36. did not propose a FVRB that differs from its proposed original cost rate base ("OCRB") of \$859,068.9
- Staff recommends a FVRB of \$837,576.10 Staff's adjusted FVRB is the same as Staff's 37. adjusted OCRB of \$837,576.11
- Staff states that in addition to other rate base adjustments, it recommends a decrease in 38. the Company's net Plant-in-Service because the Company failed to produce supporting invoices for the plant additions. Staff also stated that in order to protect the interest of ratepayers, Staff did not include the unsupported plant in rate base. 12 In support of its position to disallow the plant additions, Staff relies on Arizona Administrative Code ("A.A.C") R14-2-411.D.1, which states in relevant part:

Each Utility shall keep general and auxiliary accounting records reflecting the cost of its properties, operating income and expense, assets and liabilities, and all other accounting and statistical data necessary to give complete and authentic information as to its properties and operations.

- Additionally, A.A.C. R14-2-411.D.2 states that each utility shall maintain its books and 39. records in conformity with the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commission ("NARUC") Uniform System of Accounts ("USOA").
- 40. The NARUC USOA Accounting Instruction No. 2 (A-B)- General- Records provides instruction on the types of books and records utilities should maintain for any transaction. Instruction No. 2 states in relevant part:
 - A. Each Utility shall keep its books of account, and all other books, records, and memoranda which support the entries in such books of accounts so as to able to furnish readily full information as to any item included in any account. Each entry shall be supported by such detailed information as will permit a ready identification, analysis, and verification of all facts relevant thereto.
 - B. The books and records referred to herein include not only accounting records in a limited technical sense, but all other records, such as minute

⁸ Application at 15b. 9 Staff's Amended Schedule BCA-2 at 1.

¹² Staff's Response to Joshua Valley Utility Company's Comments to the Staff Report at 1-2.

books, stock books, reports, correspondence, memoranda, etc., which may be useful in developing the history of, or facts regarding, any transaction.

- 41. Staff recommends the following adjustments to the Company's proposed FVRB:
 - a. Decreasing Plant-in-Service by \$37,653, from \$2,372,749 to \$2,335,096, to reflect the removal of plant for which the Company could not produce supporting invoices. Staff recommends disallowing Plant-in-Service in the following categories: Wells and Spring by \$10,201, from \$108,304 to \$98,103; Transmission and Distribution Mains by \$7,835, from \$1,992,877 to \$1,985,042; Meter and Meter Installations by \$14,106, from \$44,840 to \$30,734; Computer Software by \$1,497, from \$8,946 to \$7,449; Tools and Work Equipment by \$3,657, from \$3,657 to \$0; and Miscellaneous Equipment by \$357, from \$357 to \$0.13
 - b. Decreasing Accumulated Depreciation by \$17,370, from \$1,481,455 to \$1,464,085 to reflect Staff's adjusted Plant-in-Service. 14
 - c. Decreasing Cash Working Capital by \$1,208, from \$24,052 to \$22,844, to reflect Staff's calculation of 1/24 of Purchased Power costs in the amount of \$1,036. Staff used the formula method to calculate the Company's Cash Working Capital, which is based on 1/8 of the Company's operations and maintenance expenses.¹⁵
- 42. Staff concurs with the Company's proposed Advances in Aid of Construction ("AIAC") in the amount of \$25,226 for the TY.¹⁶
- 43. Based on the depreciation rate authorized in Decision No. 64000 (August 30, 2001), Staff concurs that the Company had Contributions in Aid of Construction ("CIAC") in the amount of \$58,342 for the TY, and CIAC amortization balance of \$26,254, resulting in net CIAC in the amount of \$32,088.¹⁷
- 44. Joshua Valley opposes Staff's adjustment to Plant-in-Service for the TY. The Company states that it could not locate six invoices that were eight to 13 years old, and that the Company's owner is in "extremely poor health" and was unable to assist with the rate case. ¹⁸ Joshua Valley argues that

¹³ Staff Report at 4-5.

¹⁴ Staff's Amended Schedule BCA-2 at 4-6

¹⁵ *Id*. at 6.

¹⁶ *Id*.

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¹⁸ Joshua Valley's Comments Re Staff Report at 2.

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¹⁹ Joshua Valley's Comments Re Staff Report at 2.

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Staff should take a more "common sense" approach to the missing invoices. 19 The Company states that for several years, and moving forward, plant additions have been tracked and accounted for differently.²⁰

- 45. Joshua Valley contends that A.A.C. R14-2-411.D does not require Staff to perform a 100 percent audit of all water company invoices. To illustrate its point, Joshua Valley points to language contained in A.A.C. R14-2-411.D which states that utilities shall keep "general and auxiliary accounting records . . . "21 The Company also contends that Staff's interpretation of the rule would require every water company seeking a rate case to produce every invoice for Staff's audit.²²
- 46. Joshua Valley relies on Commission Decision No. 71854 (August 25, 2010) to support its position that water companies need not produce 100 percent of invoices for a Staff audit.²³ In a prior rate case, involving Johnson Utilities Company ("Johnson"), Johnson proposed a net utility Plant-in-Service of \$115,454,166 for its wastewater division and net Plant-in-Service of \$69,177,566 for its water division.²⁴
- 47. In Johnson, Staff recommended that the Commission disallow Plant-in-Service in the amount of \$10,892,391 for Johnson's wastewater division and \$7,433,707 for Johnson's water division.²⁵ Staff expressed concern over the amount of inadequately supported plant costs that Johnson had included in its net Plant-in-Service and Staff recommended that the Commission disallow 10 percent of the plant additions requested by Johnson.²⁶ Staff stated that Johnson "failed to provide complete and authentic information in regards to its plant in accordance with Commission rules."27 Johnson argued that Staff's recommended 10 percent disallowance was arbitrary (because it did not identify specific unsupported or inadequately supported plant costs), and that Johnson provided contracts, invoices, cancelled checks and/or main extension agreements that supported all but \$885,064

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²¹ Joshua Valley's Reply to Staff's Response at 2.

²² *Id*.at 3. 26

²³ Id. at 4.

²⁴ Decision No. 71854 at 4.

²⁷ ²⁵ Id. at 5.

²⁶ *Id*.

²⁷ *Id*.

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25 Decision No. 71854 at 6.
²⁹ *Id.* at 49 and 67-69.

³⁰ Decision No. 72579 (September 15, 2011) at 2.

³¹ Johnson Petition to Amend Decision No. 71854 Pursuant to A.R.S. §40-252 filed in Docket No. WS-02987A-08-0180.

32 Staff's Response to Petition to Amend filed in Docket No. WS-02987A-08-0180.

 $27 \begin{vmatrix} 33 & Id. \\ 34 & Id. \end{vmatrix}$

³⁴ *Id*.

³⁵ Decision No. 72579 at 3-7.

of Johnson's proposed Plant-in-Service.²⁸ Decision No. 71854 approved Staff's recommended adjustments to net utility Plant-in Service for Johnson's wastewater division and reduced Johnson's rate base accordingly.²⁹

- 48. Subsequently, Johnson filed a Petition to Amend Decision No. 71854 ("Petition") pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes ("A.R.S.") §40-252, requesting among other things, to add back into rate base \$18,244,755 for its wastewater division that was disallowed due to inadequately supported plant cost and \$7,352,364 disallowed for affiliate profit. In its Petition, Johnson argued that during its rate hearing it had provided "copies of contracts, invoices, cancelled checks, and/or line extension agreements to support almost all of the wastewater plant items that were requested by Staff." Staff opposed the Company's request to add back into rate base the plant that had been disallowed. In that case, Staff did not dispute that Johnson provided the documentation to support its plant additions, but stated that Staff's "audit and analysis could not verify the Company's claims" and that the audit process was "compounded by the lack of timeliness of the response of the Company as well as the failure of the Company to keep its records in accordance with NARUC USOA." Staff stated that during Johnson's rate hearing, Johnson provided "voluminous documents" in response to a data request issued in 2008, "a mere two days before the commencement of the hearing"... and that it was "unreasonable to require Staff to audit those records on the eye of trial."
- 49. In Decision No. 72579 (September 15, 2011), the Commission granted approval to amend Decision No. 71854 and granted, among other things, Johnson's request to add back into its wastewater rate base \$10,892,391 that had previously been disallowed for inadequately supported plant cost.³⁵
- 50. Joshua Valley contends that the *Johnson* case illustrates "the disparate treatment between large and small water companies as far as the requirement for small water companies to be

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subject to 100 percent audits, while large companies are subject to sample audits."36 The Company contends that Johnson "sought approximately \$115,000,000 in rate base for its wastewater division, but produced invoices totaling only \$8,100,000."37 According to Joshua Valley, Johnson argued that contracts, bank statements, and extension agreements established that Johnson had approximately \$100,000,000 in plant investment.³⁸

- The Company argues that each of the plant additions that Staff disallowed was recorded 51. in the Company's accounting records, general ledger, and its Utilities Division Annual Reports ("Annual Reports"), and that the documentation had been submitted to Staff and/or filed with the Commission.³⁹ Joshua Valley contends that its application included business records that constitute prima facie evidence of the plant additions and that, as required by Staff, the Company reviews its "accounting records and provides summaries of the plant additions as well as many invoices." 40 Further, Joshua Valley argues that its general ledger submitted for Staff's review, as well as its Annual Reports, contained the plant additions and were recorded as part of the Company's ordinary course of business.⁴¹ Joshua Valley states that it has \$2,372,749 in plant, that the six missing invoices constitute 1.6 percent of its plant in rate base, and that water companies should not be punished because they cannot locate all of their plant invoices. 42
- 52. The Company states that although it was unable to locate the six missing invoices, evidence of the Plant-in-Service was provided. The Company's application included a list of plant additions and retirements for the intervening years between its last rate case in 2001 and the end of the TY 2014.43 The Company's application also included a plant summary showing that prior to its 2001 rate case, it had \$29,238 in Plant-in-Service in the Wells & Springs category.⁴⁴ The Company's application shows that during the intervening years, Joshua Valley added plant in the Wells & Springs

³⁶ Joshua Valley's Reply to Staff's Response at 5.

³⁷ Id. at 4. 25

³⁸ *Id*.

³⁹ *Id*.

⁴⁰ *Id*. at 6.

²⁷ ⁴² Id. at 7.

⁴³ Application at 12-13.

⁴⁴ *Id*. at 14.

category of: \$10,200 in 2002; \$39,117 in 2013; and \$29,749 in 2014. The total cost of plant additions in the Wells & Springs category for the intervening years, and through the end of the TY, was \$79,066, and no plant was retired during that time. The Company reported that at the end of the TY it had total Plant-in-Service in the amount of \$108,304 in the Wells & Springs category. A review of Joshua Valley's Annual Reports filed with the Commission for the years 2012, 2013, and 2014 show that Joshua Valley reported identical amounts for its plant additions in the Wells & Springs category, as it reported in its application, which resulted in total plant additions in the amount of \$108,304 at the end of the TY. Likewise, the Company's Commission-filed Annual Reports for the years 2012, 2013 and 2014, also reported identical amounts for its plant additions in the following categories: Transmission & Distribution Mains; Meters & Meter Installations; Computers & Software; and Miscellaneous Equipment. In both its Annual Reports and its application the Company's requested amount of net Plant-in-Service at the end of the test year is the same. Further, the Company has stated that its books and ledgers recorded the plant additions during the intervening years. As

- 53. We disagree with the Company's argument that the Johnson case "highlights the disparate treatment between large and small water companies" as it relates to auditing the books of a regulated utility. Under Commission Rules and NARUC USOA guidelines each utility is required "to keep its books of account, and all other books, records, and memoranda which support the entries in such books of accounts so as to able to furnish readily full information as to any item included in any account." While the NARUC USOA instructions allow for the inclusion of "not only accounting records in a limited technical sense, but all other records, such as minute books, stock books, reports, correspondence, memoranda, etc., which may be useful in developing the history of, or facts regarding, any transaction. . . .," it is nevertheless the utility's responsibility to substantiate each transaction recorded in its books and records. In other words, the burden of proof lies with the utility.
- 54. Here, the Company's proposed Plant-in-Service additions at the end of the TY were identical to amounts reported in the Company's Annual Reports (for prior years). It is also undisputed

⁴⁵ Application at 12-13.

⁴⁶ *Id.* at 14.

Id

⁴⁸ Joshua Valley's Reply to Staff's Response at 1.

⁴⁹ See, Attached Exhibit A.

50 Staff's Amended Schedule BCA-2.51 See, Attached Exhibit A.

 $26 \mid \int_{52}^{52} Id.$

 \int_{54}^{53} Application at 19.

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55 Staff's Amended Schedule BCA-3 at 1.

that the Company's books and ledgers contained and recorded the plant additions. Further, the documentation submitted with the Company's application in support of recent plant additions show that the Company has improved and/or made positive changes in its record keeping and accounting methods. Based on the above factors, we find that under the specific circumstances of this case, it is reasonable to allow the Company's proposed net Plant-in-Service. We find that the Company had total Plant-in-Service in the amount of \$2,372,749, and Accumulated Depreciation in the amount of \$1,481,456, for a net Plant-in-Service in the amount of \$891,293 for the TY.⁴⁹

- 55. The Company proposed a Cash Working Capital Allowance in the amount of \$25,088. Staff's adjustment to Cash Working Capital decreased the amount by \$1,208, from \$25,088, to \$23,880.⁵⁰ Based on the adjustments adopted herein, we find it appropriate to increase Staff's proposed Cash Working Capital Allowance by \$924, from \$23,880, to \$24,804, to reflect calculation of 1/24 of purchased power costs, in the amount of \$24,854, and calculation of 1/8 of operation and maintenance expenses, in the amount of \$190,151, using the formula method, to calculate Cash Working Capital.⁵¹
- 56. The Company did not propose a FVRB that differs from its OCRB; therefore, we find that Joshua Valley's OCRB is the same as its FVRB of \$858,783.⁵²

Operating Income and Revenue Requirement

- 57. The Company proposed a \$95,000, or 34.55 percent, increase in revenues over its proposed TY revenues of \$274,958, to \$369,958.⁵³ Joshua Valley's proposed revenue increase would produce an operating income of \$60,957, for a 7.38 percent rate of return on an OCRB of \$859,068.⁵⁴
 - 58. The Company proposed a cash flow in the amount of \$111,023.
- 59. Staff does not recommend adjustments to the Company's proposed TY revenues of \$274,958.⁵⁵ Staff recommends a total annual operating revenue of \$357,991, an increase of \$83,033, or 30.20 percent, over TY revenues of 274,958.⁵⁶ Staff's recommended revenue increase would

produce an operating income of \$59,050, for a 7.05 percent rate of return on Staff's adjusted OCRB of \$837.576.⁵⁷

- 60. Staff recommends a cash flow amount of \$108,917. Staff believes its recommended cash flow will provide the Company with sufficient income to pay operating expenses and contingencies.
- 61. The Company states it had TY operating expenses of \$284,524, resulting in an operating income of negative \$9,566.⁵⁸
- 62. Staff recommends TY operating expenses of \$279,542, resulting in an operating income of negative \$4,584.⁵⁹
 - 63. Staff adjustments to operating expenses include:
 - a. Increasing Salaries and Wages expense by \$12,600, from \$103,971, to \$116,571, to reflect the reclassification of owner's salary of \$20,000 from Account No. 630, Outside Services, to Account No. 601, Salaries and Wages. The adjustment also removes \$7,400 due to duplication of services for both the owner and general manager.
 - b. Decreasing Outside Services by \$20,000, from \$21,718, to \$1,718, to reflect the reclassification of \$20,000 from Account No. 630, Salary and Wages, to Account No. 601, Outside Services.
 - c. Increasing Water Testing by \$370, from \$3,120 to \$3,490, to reflect Staff's Engineer's calculation of water testing expense.
 - d. Decreasing Depreciation by \$199, from \$50,066 to \$49,867, to reflect the application of Staff's recommended depreciation rate to Staff's recommended plant balances.
 - e. Increasing Income Tax expense by \$1,283, from negative \$2,406 to negative \$1,123, for the TY, to reflect Staff's calculation of the income tax obligation on Staff's adjusted TY taxable income.⁶⁰
 - f. Increasing Taxes Other than Income by \$964, from \$9,004 to \$9,968, to reflect Federal Insurance Contributions Act Taxes ("FICA") on Staff's adjustment to reduce the owner's salary from \$20,000 to \$12,600 for the TY.⁶¹
- 64. Staff states that its adjustments to Salaries and Wages were based on statements made by the Company in its application and in response to Staff's data request. Staff points to the Exhibit 2,

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⁵⁷ Staff's Amended Schedule BCA-3 at 1.

⁵⁸Application at 19.

⁵⁹ Staff's Amended Schedule BCA-3 at 1.

⁶⁰ *Id*. at 1-3.

⁶¹ *Id*. at 1.

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27 68 Id. at 2.

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⁷⁰ *Id*.

filed with the Company's application, entitled Salaries and Wages Support. 62 In this document, Staff points out the Company stated its General Manager, Mr. Levandowski, "oversees all aspects of operations."63 Staff also points out that the Company's response to data request JLK 1.13 stated that the owner, "John Norton provides routine services related to Company management and oversight of employees and service providers."64 Based on these statements, Staff concluded that both the owner and the General Manager perform the same service to "oversee all aspects of operations." Therefore, Staff states it decreased Salaries and Wages by \$7,400 because of the duplication of services. 66

In support of its position, Staff relies on the language found in NARUC USOA 65. Accounting Instruction No. 10 - Allocation of Salaries and Expenses, which states in relevant part that:

> Charges to utility plant or to a salaries expense account shall be based upon the actual time engaged in either plant construction or providing operational services. In the event actual time spent in the various activities is not available or practicable, salaries should be allocated upon the basis of a study of the time engaged during a representative period. Charges should not be made to accounts based upon estimates or in an arbitrary fashion.⁶⁷

In regards to Staff's adjustment to reclassify \$20,000 in salary paid to the Company's 66. owner/general manager from Salary and Wages to Outside Services, Staff explained that in transactions in which an owner is paid as both an owner and an employee these transactions require additional scrutiny.68 Staff states that the compensation of owners in excess of a reasonable amount may actually be a distribution of income/profit.⁶⁹ Further, Staff stated that it reviewed the Company's general ledger and found that the owner was not paid bi-weekly or even monthly and that the owner had only been paid once during the TY in the amount of \$20,000 in June 2014.⁷⁰ Staff points out that employees are typically paid bi-weekly and that the Company could not substantiate the actual time the owner/general manager spends working on Joshua Valley activities. Staff asserts that customers should only be required to pay for the actual and reasonable cost needed to provide service and that, pursuant to the

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<sup>62</sup> Staff's Response to Joshua Valley's Comments to Staff Report at 2.
<sup>63</sup> Id.
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⁶⁴ *Id*. 65 Staff Report at 6.

⁶⁶ Staff Response to Joshua Valley's Comments to Staff Report at 3. ⁶⁷ *Id*.

⁶⁹ *Id* at 3.

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⁷³ *Id*.

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⁷⁷ Id. at 8-9. 28

⁷⁸ *Id*. at 9.

NARUC USOA, it is not appropriate to use an estimate as a basis for a salary.⁷¹

- 67. Staff stated that while the owner did spend time working on Joshua Valley activities, Staff determined that he did not spend as much time on Joshua Valley activities as the general manager. 72 Staff also took into consideration the fact that both the owner and the general manager have similar duties and that the general manager was paid \$12,600 for the TY. Based on that information, Staff concluded that the owner should be paid the equivalent amount of \$12,600.73 Staff reasoned that although the salary was the same for the owner and general manager, the hourly rate for the owner is higher and will compensate for the fewer hours being worked by the owner.⁷⁴
- Staff also recommends that, on a going-forward basis, the Company should utilize the 68. depreciation rates as delineated in Table C of the Staff Report.
- The Company opposes Staff's recommendation to reduce the owner's salary from 69. \$20,000, as proposed by the Company, to \$12,600. Joshua Valley explained that the Company is run by its owner (part-time), two part-time employees, and two full-time employees, for a total cost of \$123,971 annually. 75 The Company claims that it has essentially two part-time general managers, Mr. Levandowski and Mr. John Norton, with annual salaries of \$12,600 and \$20,000, respectively. The Company asserts that Mr. Norton, who is one of two directors/owners for the Company, is primarily responsible for corporate, financial, and regulatory matters, while Mr. Levandowski is responsible for the operational needs of the Company and ensures customers have service.⁷⁷
- 70. Joshua Valley states that Mr. Norton's duties, as owner/general manager, include: personnel decisions; bidding; regulatory compliance; banking and financing; contracting; land use and right-of-ways; line extension agreements; oversight of professional accountants and attorneys; tax matters; correspondence with customers and the business community; and corporate matters.⁷⁸ By comparison, the Company states that Mr. Levandowski's duties, as general manager, include:

⁷¹ Staff's Response to Joshua Valley's Comments to Staff Report at 3. ⁷² *Id*.

⁷⁵ Joshua Valley's Reply to Staff Response at 7-8.

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80 *Id*. at 9. 81 Id. at 10.

⁷⁹ Joshua Valley's Reply to Staff Response at 8.

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82 Id. at 10.

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86 *Id.* at 12. 87 Id. at 12.

⁸⁵ *Id*. at 11.

supervising employees; identifying issues with the water system; ensuring meters are read; making sure customer bills are mailed each month; and overseeing all aspects of the water systems operations.⁷⁹ The Company states that Mr. Levandowski reports directly to Mr. Norton, on all substantive matters, but Mr. Norton makes the final decisions. Joshua Valley argues that the "two general managers" work duties are complementary, but not duplicative.80

- 71. Joshua Valley contends that Staff's recommended adjustment, decreasing the owner's salary by \$7,400, is arbitrary.81 The Company argues that under Staff's proposal, only \$25,200 would be allocated to the two general manager positions, and that the \$25,200 amount is unrealistic for a Company with approximately 1,000 customers. 82 Joshua Valley also argues that Staff failed to ask the Company to explain how the Company split the general management duties and that the two documents Staff relied on do not directly address how the two general managers' work duties are divided.83
- 72. The Company also argues that Staff's recommended reclassification of the owner's salary, from Outside Services to Salary and Wages, creates a "strawman argument" which Staff uses "to rationalize the \$7,400 reduction."84 According to Joshua Valley, Staff made its recommendation to reclassify the owner's salary so that Staff could apply the NARUC standard for salaries expenses.85 The Company states that "at no time during the discovery process did Staff ever raise the issue regarding Norton's work."86
- 73. The Company argues that Staff offered no evidence to support reclassifying the owner's salary from Outside Services to Salary and Wages; Staff's "strawman argument" impliedly criticized the Company for not providing timesheets for a non-salaried employee; Staff never asked for timesheets for any employees, but only adjusted for the owner; and Staff offered no factual basis for its arbitrary adjustment.87
 - The Company states that on a going-forward basis, it does not object to reclassifying 74.

the owner's salary from Outside Services to Salary and Wages. Further, the Company states that on a going-forward basis, it will implement a policy of paying the owner more than once a year. However, the Company argues that taking this approach will be more expensive for ratepayers because the Company will no longer be able to use the owner's salary throughout the year, and that the once a year payment allowed the Company to reduce its FICA payments by approximately \$1,000.88

- Assed on the Company's explanation of the roles of both Mr. Norton and Mr. Levandowski, we find that the duties for the two employees are not duplicative and there is no evidence in the record to dispute that the owner's salary is reasonable given the size of the Company. Therefore, we will adopt the Company's proposed salary of \$20,000 for its owner/general manager and we will transfer \$20,000 from Outside Services to Salary and Wages, as recommended by Staff. Further, on a going forward basis, the Company should pay its owner/general manager more than once a year and record such payments under Salary and Wages, pursuant to NARUC USOA guidelines.
- Assed on the adjustments adopted herein, we make the following adjustments to the Company's proposed expenses for the TY: increasing Salary and Wages by \$20,000, from \$103,971 to \$123,971; decreasing Outside Services by \$20,000, from \$21,718 to \$1,718; increasing Water Testing by \$370, from \$3,120, to \$3,490; increasing Depreciation Expense by \$390, from \$50,066, to \$50,456; increasing Taxes Other Than Income by \$1,530, from \$9,004 to \$10,534; decreasing Property Taxes by \$286, from \$10,583 to \$10,297; decreasing Income Taxes by \$305, from negative \$2,406 to negative \$2,711; and increasing TY operating expenses by \$1,669.90 Further, we will adopt the Company's proposed TY revenues of \$274,958, and adjusted operating expenses of \$286,223, resulting in operating income of negative \$11,265 for the TY.91
- 77. In addition, based on our findings herein, we find that, on a going forward basis, the Company has a revenue requirement of \$368,801, operating expenses of \$308,025, and an operating income of \$60,776, for a 7.10 percent rate of return on its FVRB of \$858,783.⁹²

⁸⁸ Joshua Valley's Reply to Staff Response at 13.

⁸⁹ See, Attached Exhibit B.

⁹⁰ Id. at Exhibit C.

⁹¹ *Id*.

⁹² Id. at Exhibit D.

Rate Design

78. The rates and charges for the Company at present, as proposed in the rate application, and as recommended by Staff are as follows:

"x 3/4" Meter 3/4" Meter	Present Rates \$13.50	Proposed Rate Company	
	Rates	-	
		Company	
	\$13.50	Company	<u>Staff</u>
3/4" Meter	Ψ13.50	18.50	17.50
	25.00	27.75	25.50
1" Meter	35.00	46.25	42.50
1 ½" Meter	80.00	92.50	85.00
2" Meter	180.00	148.00	180.00
3" Meter	200.00	296.00	200.00
4" Meter	300.00	462.50	300.00
6" Meter	400.00	925.00	600.00
8" Meter	-	-	-
MMODITY RATES			
" x ¾" Meter and ¾" Meter			
5,000 Gallons	\$3.40		
01 to 20,000 Gallons	3.90		
er 20,000 Gallons	4.25		
3,000 Gallons		\$4.00	\$4.00
01 to 10,000 Gallons			5.20
er 10,000 Gallons		6.54	6.59
Meter			
	1 ½" Meter 2" Meter 3" Meter 4" Meter 6" Meter 8" Meter OMMODITY RATES "x ¾" Meter and ¾" Meter 5,000 Gallons 01 to 20,000 Gallons er 20,000 Gallons 03,000 Gallons 01 to 10,000 Gallons er 10,000 Gallons er 10,000 Gallons	1 ½" Meter 80.00 2" Meter 180.00 3" Meter 200.00 4" Meter 300.00 6" Meter 400.00 8" Meter	1 ½" Meter 80.00 92.50 2" Meter 180.00 148.00 3" Meter 200.00 296.00 4" Meter 300.00 462.50 6" Meter 400.00 925.00 8" Meter

Over 10,000 Ganons		0.34	0.39
1" Meter			
1 to 5,000 Gallons	\$3.40		
5,001 to 20,000 Gallons	3.90		
Over 20,000 Gallons	4.25		
1 to 10,000 Gallons		\$5.25	
Over 10,000 Gallons		6.54	
1 to 20,000 Gallons			\$5.20
Over 20,000 Gallons			6.59

1 ½" Meter 1 to 5,000 Gallons	\$3.40		
5,001 to 20,000 Gallons	3.90		
Over 20,000 Gallons	4.25		
1 to 10,000 Gallons	7.23	\$5.25	
Over 10,000 Gallons		6.54	
1 to 50,000 Gallons		0.0 .	\$5.20
Over 50,000 Gallons			6.59

<u>2" Meter</u>	
1 to 5,000 Gallons	\$3.40

DOCKET NO. W-02023A-15-0315
\$5.25 6.54 \$5.20 6.59
\$5.25

6.54

1 to 200,000 Gallons		6.54	
Over 200,000 Gallons			\$5.20 6.59
4" Meter			0.57
1 to 5,000 Gallons	Φ2.40		
5,001 to 20,000 Gallons	\$3.40		
	3.90		
Over 20,000 Gallons	4.25		
1 to 10,000 Gallons		\$5.25	
Over 10,000 Gallons		6.54	
1 to 300,000 Gallons			\$5.20
Over 300,000 Gallons			6.59
622 Motor			
6" Meter			
1 to 5,000 Gallons	\$3.40		
5,001 to 20,000 Gallons	3.90		
Over 20,000 Gallons	4.25		
1 to 10,000 Gallons		\$5.25	
Over 10,000 Gallons		6.54	
1 to 600,000 Gallons			\$5.20
Over 600,000 Gallons			6.59
			0.57
Coin Meter/Bulk			

3.90

4.25

\$3.40

3.90

4.25

<u>SERVICE LINE AND METER INSTALLATION CHARGES:</u> (Refundable pursuant to A.A.C. R14-2-40-5)

5,001 to 20,000 Gallons

Over 20,000 Gallons

1 to 10,000 Gallons

Over 10,00 Gallons

1 to 90,000 Gallons Over 90,000 Gallons

1 to 5,000 Gallons

Over 20,000 Gallons

1 to 10,000 Gallons Over 10,000 Gallons

5,001 to 20,000 Gallons

3" Meter

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Per 1,000 Gallons

	_		Company		Staff	Recommen	nded
	<u>Present</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Meter</u>	<u>Total</u>	Service	Meter	Total
	<u>Rates</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Charge</u>	Charge	<u>Line</u>	Charge	Charge
5/8" x 3/4" Meter	\$320	\$490	\$132	\$622	\$490	\$132	\$622
¾" Meter	350	490	233	723	490	233	723
1" Meter	400	547	293	840	547	293	840
1 ½" Meter	615	610	506	1,116	610	506	1,116

\$5.00

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\$6.54

\$6.59

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2" Turbine Meter	850	927	1,031	1,958	927	1,031	1,958
2" Compound Meter	-	927	1,884	2,811	927	1,884	2,811
3" Turbine Meter	-	1,171	1,662	2,833	1,171	1,662	2,833
3" Compound Meter	-	1,308	2,546	3,854	1,308	2,546	3,854
4" Turbine Meter	-	1,661	2,647	4,308	1,661	2,647	4,308
4" Compound Meter	-	1,866	3,632	5,498	1,866	3,632	5,498
6" Turbine Meter	-	2,479	5,026	7,505	2,479	5,026	7,505
6" Compound Meter	-	2,615	6,939	9,554	2,615	6,939	9,554
Over 6"	-	Cost	Cost	Cost	Cost	Cost	Cost

	Present	Company	Staff
SERVICE CHARGE:	Rates	Proposed	Recommended
Establishment	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00
Reconnection (Delinquent)	50.00	45.00	45.00
After Hours Service Charge	N/A	50.00	50.00
Meter Test (If Correct)	\$25.00	40.00	25.00
Deposit	*	*	<i>23.</i> 00
Deposit Interest	*	*	*
Reestablishment (Within 12 Months)	**	**	**
NSF Check	\$20.00	\$30.00	\$15.00
Deferred Payment (per month)	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%
Meter Reread (If Correct)	\$15.00	\$25.00	\$15.00
Late Payment (per month)	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%
Moving Customer Meter at Customer	N/A	Cost	Cost
Request Per Rule R14-2-405B		2050	Cost
Fire Sprinkler (All Meter Sizes)	***	***	***

- * Per Commission rule A.A.C. R-14-2-403(B).
- ** Months of system times the monthly minimum per Commission rule A.A.C. R14-2-403(D).
- *** 2% of the monthly minimum for a comparable size meter connection but not less than \$10.00 per month.
- 79. In addition to the collection of regular rates, the Company will collect from its customers a proportionate share of any privilege, sales, use, and franchise tax.
- 80. Joshua Valley did not propose any changes to its three-tiered rate structure, but did propose modifications to its break-over points. The Company proposed that zero gallons be included in the minimum and break-over points of: first-tier 1 to 3,000 gallons; second-tier 3,001 to 10,000 gallons; and third-tier over 10,000 gallons for its 5/8 x ³/₄-inch meters.
- 81. Staff concurs with the Company's proposed break-over points for its 5/8 x ³/₄-inch meters. However, Staff proposed a different rate structure with higher break-over points for the

1 Company's larger meter sizes.⁹³

- 82. We find that the Company's proposed rate design is reasonable and should be adopted. Further, we find Staff's recommended rate structure is reasonable and should be adopted.
- 83. The Company's proposed rates and rate design would increase the typical residential bill for customers on a 5/8 x ³/₄-inch meter, and a median usage of 945 gallons, from \$30.93 to \$41.57, for an increase of \$10.65, or 34.43 percent. ⁹⁴ For an average customer (using 2,408 gallons) with the same meter size, the Company's proposed rates would increase from \$36.10 to \$48.53, or 34.46 percent.
- 84. Staff's recommended rates and rate design would increase the typical residential 5/8/x 3/4-inch meter bill, with a median usage of 945 gallons, from \$30.93 to \$39.97, for an increase of \$9.04, or 29.24 percent. For an average customer (using 2,408 gallons) with the same meter size, Staff's recommended rates would increase the monthly bill from \$36.10 to \$46.86, for an increase of \$10.77, or 29.82 percent. 95
- 85. Based on the findings herein, given that we have adopted the Company's proposed revenue requirement and its rate design, the typical residential 5/8 x ³/₄-inch meter bill with a median usage of 945 gallons would increase from \$16.71, to \$22.28, for an increase of \$5.57, or 33.31 percent. ⁹⁶ For an average customer (using 2,408 gallons) with the same meter size, the rates would increase the monthly bill from \$21.69, to \$28.13, for an increase of \$6.44, or 29.72 percent. ⁹⁷
- 86. The Company proposed changes to its current Service Line and Meter Installation charges. Staff does not oppose the Company's proposed Service Line and Meter Installation charges, but recommends that the Company apply separate charges for service line and meter installations. Staff states that there may be times when the Company may need to install meters on an existing service line; therefore, Staff recommends separate charges for each service.
 - 87. Staff recommended the following adjustments to the Company's proposed Service

⁹³ Staff Report at Schedule BCA-4.

⁹⁴ Although Staff calculated the proposed increase in rates, the calculations appear to be incorrect. Amended Schedule BCA-5. *See* also, Attached Exhibit E.

^{27 |} BCA 95 Id.

⁹⁶Id.

⁹⁷Id.

Charges: decreasing Meter Test (If Correct) from \$40 to \$25; decreasing NSF Check from \$30 to \$15; and decreasing Meter Reread (If Correct) from \$25 to \$15.

- 88. The Company did not oppose Staff's recommended Service Line and Meter Installation charges or Staff's recommended Service charges.
 - 89. We find Staff's recommended charges are reasonable and we will adopt them.
- 90. Because an allowance for the property tax expense is included in the Company's rates and will be collected from its customers, the Commission seeks assurances from the Company that any taxes collected from ratepayers have been remitted to the appropriate taxing authority. It has come to the Commission's attention that a number of water companies have been unwilling or unable to fulfill their obligation to pay the taxes that were collected from ratepayers, some for as many as twenty years. It is reasonable, therefore, that Joshua Valley should file, as part of its annual report, an affidavit with the Utilities Division attesting that the Company is current on its property taxes in Arizona.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. Joshua Valley is a public service corporation within the meaning of Article XV of the Arizona Constitution and A.R.S. §§ 40-250 and 40-251.
- 2. The Commission has jurisdiction over Joshua Valley and the subject matter of the rate application.
 - 3. Notice of the application was given in accordance with the law.
- 4. The rates and charges authorized herein are just and reasonable, in the public interest, and should be approved.
 - 5. The subject matter of this application may be approved without a hearing.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Joshua Valley Utility Company, Inc. is hereby authorized and directed to file with the Commission, as a compliance item in this docket, on or before August 31, 2016, a revised tariff setting forth the following rates and charges:

MONTHLY USAGE CHARGE:

5/8" x 3/4" Meter	\$18.03
¾" Meter	26.28
1" Meter	43.80
1 ½" Meter	87.59

1	2" Meter		18	35.49	
	3" Meter 4" Meter			06.10	
2	6" Meter)9.15 8.30	
3	8" Meter		0.	-	
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5	5/8" x 3/4" Meter and 3/4	" Meter			
	1 to 3,000 Gallons		\$	54.12	
6	3,001 to 10,000 Gallons Over 10,000 Gallons			5.36 6.79	
7	o ver ro,ooo danons			0.79	
8	1" Meter				
	1 to 20,000 Gallons Over 20,000 Gallons		\$	55.36	
9	Over 20,000 Gamons			6.79	
10	1½" Meter				
11	1 to 50,000 Gallons Over 50,000 Gallons		\$	5.36	
	Over 50,000 Ganons			6.79	
12	<u>2" Meter</u>				
13	1 to 90,000 Gallons			5.36	
14	Over 90,000 Gallons			6.79	
	3" Meter				
15	1 to 200,000 Gallons			5.36	
16	Over 200,000 Gallons			6.79	
17	4" Meter				
	1 to 300,000 Gallons		\$	5.36	
18	Over 300,000 Gallons			6.79	
19	<u>6" Meter</u>				
20	1 to 600,000 Gallons		\$	5.36	
	Over 600,000 Gallons			6.79	
21	<u>Coin Meter/Bulk</u>				
22	Per 1,000 Gallons		\$	6.79	
23	SERVICE LINE AND M	IETER INST.	ALLATION CH	ARCES:	
24	(Refundable pursuant to	A.A.C. R14-2	2-40-5)	iiides.	
		Service Line	Meter Charge	Total Charge	
25	5/8" x 3/4" Meter 3/4" Meter	\$490 490	\$132	\$622	
26	1" Meter	490 547	233 293	723 840	
	1 ½" Meter	610	506	1,116	
27	2" Turbine Meter	927	1,031	1,958	
28	2" Compound Meter	927	1,884	2,811	

1	3" Turbine Meter	1,171	1,662	2,833
	3" Compound Meter	1,308	2,546	3,854
2	4" Turbine Meter	1,661	2,647	4,308
3	4" Compound Meter	1,866	3,632	5,498
3	6" Turbine Meter	2,479	5,026	7,505
4	6" Compound Meter	2,615	6,939	9,554
•	Over 6"	Cost	Cost	Cost
5	SERVICE CHARGE:			
6	Establishment		\$35.00	
	Reconnection (Delinquent)		45.00	
7	After Hours Service Charg	e	50.00	
0	Meter Test (If Correct)		25.00	
8	Deposit		*	
9	Deposit Interest		*	
	Reestablishment (Within 1)	2 Months)	**	
10	NSF Check		\$15.00	
	Deferred Payment (per mor	nth)	1.50%	
11	Meter Reread (If Correct)		\$15.00	
12	Late Payment (per month)		1.50%	
14	Moving Customer Meter at	Customer	Cost	
13	Request Per Rule R14-2-40			
	Fire Sprinkler (All Meter S	izes)	***	
14				
	* Per Commission	on rule A.A.C. R-	14-2-403(B).	
15	** Months of syst	tem times the mon	nthly minimum pe	r Commission

on rule A.A.C. R14-2-403(D).

2% of the monthly minimum for a comparable size meter connection but not less than \$10.00 per month. The Service Charge for Fire Sprinklers is only applicable for service lines separate and distinct from the primary water service line.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the revised schedule of rates and charges shall be effective for all service rendered on and after September 1, 2016.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that in addition to the collection of its regular rates and charges, Joshua Valley Utility Water Company, Inc., is authorized to collect from its customers a proportionate share of any privilege, sales, or use tax pursuant to A.A.C. R14-2-409.D.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Joshua Valley Utility Water Company, Inc., shall notify its customers of the authorized rates and charges, and the effective dates of said rates and charges, in a form acceptable to Staff, by means of an insert in its next regularly scheduled billing, or separate mailing, and the Company shall file copies of the notice with Docket Control within 10 days of the date the notice is sent to customers.

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Joshua Valley Utility Water Company, Inc., is hereby put on notice that it shall appropriately record all plant transactions in accordance with National Association of Regulatory Commissioners guidelines.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Joshua Valley Utility Water Company, Inc., shall on a going forward basis, use the depreciation rates delineated in Table C attached to the Staff Report.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Joshua Valley Utility Water Company, Inc., shall prepare a report containing a detailed analysis and plan to reduce the Company's water loss to 10 percent or less. If the Company believes it is not cost effective to reduce the water loss to less than 10 percent, it shall submit file a detailed cost benefit analysis to support its opinion. In no case shall the Company allow water loss to be greater than 15 percent. The water loss reduction report or the detailed analysis. whichever is submitted, shall be docketed as a compliance item, within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this Decision.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Joshua Valley Utility Water Company, Inc., shall install a meter on the 3-inch standpipe that will function year-round, regardless of freezing weather. The meter shall be installed and operational within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this Decision.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that upon Joshua Valley Utility Water Company, Inc., installing a meter on the 3-inch standpipe (discussed above), the Company shall file, within thirty (30) days of such installation, with Docket Control, as a compliance item in this docket, a notice updating the Commission on the status of its compliance.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Joshua Valley Utility Water Company, Inc., shall file with Docket Control, as a compliance item in this docket, and within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this Decision, at least three Best Management Practices in the form of tariffs that substantially conform to the templates created by Staff. The templates created by Staff are available on the Commission's website at http://www.azcc.gov/Divisions/Utilities/Water/forms.asp.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Joshua Valley Utility Water Company Inc's., Best Management Practices may only contain a maximum of two Best Management Practices from the "Public Awareness/Public Relations" or "Education and Training" categories. The Company may seek cost recovery of the actual costs associated with the implementation of the Best Management Practices

1	in its next general rate case.
2	IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Joshua Valley Utility Water Company Inc., shall file
3	annually, with the Commission's Utilities Division, as part of its Annual Report, an affidavit attesting
4	that it is current on its property taxes in Arizona.
5	IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Decision shall become effective immediately.
6	BY ORDER OF THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION.
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8	JUS LATER OF P
9	CHAIRMAN LITTLE COMMISSIONER STUMP
10	The Fouse 100 11112
11	COMMISSIONER FORESE COMMISSIONER TOBIN COMMISSIONER BURNS
12	COMMISSIONER BURINS
13	INI WITNESS WHEREOF I JOB! HERIOU F
14	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, JODI JERICH, Executive Director of the Arizona Corporation Commission, have hereunto set my
15	hand and caused the official seal of the Commission to be affixed at the Capitol, in the City of Phoenix, this day
16	of <u>HVgv5+</u> 2016.
17	The Street
18	JODÍ A. JERICH
19	DISSENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
20	1. American services
21	DISSENT
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DECISION NO. ____

1	SERVICE LIST FOR:	JOSHUA VALLEY UTILITY COMPANY, INC.
2	DOCKET NO.:	W-02023A-15-0315
3	Steve Wene	
4	MOYES SELLERS & HENDRICKS LTD. 1850 N. Central Ave., Suite 1100	
5	Phoenix, AZ 85004 Attorneys for Joshua Valley Utility Compar	ny, Inc.
6	Janice Alward Chief Counsel	
7	Legal Division ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSIC	ON
8	1200 West Washington Street Phoenix, AZ 85007	
9	Thomas Broderick, Director Utilities Division	
10	ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSIC 1200 West Washington Street Phoenix, AZ 85007)N
11	Thochix, AZ 85007	
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Exhibit A

Joshua Valley Utility Company Docket No. W-02023A-15-0315 Test Year Ended December 31, 2014

RATE BASE - FAIR VALUE

			(A)		(B) STAFF		(C) RO		(D)
LINE <u>NO.</u>		-	OMPANY AS FILED	A	AS DJUSTED		DOPTED JSTMENTS	A	RO DOPTED
1 2 3	Plant in Service Less: Accumulated Depreciation Net Plant in Service	\$	2,372,749 1,481,456 891,293	\$ 	2,335,096 1,464,086 871,010	\$ \$	37,653 17,370 20,283	\$ \$	2,372,749 1,481,456 891,293
	LESS:								
4	Advances in Aid of Construction (AIAC)	\$	-	\$	-	\$		\$	-
5	Service Line and Meter Advances	\$	25,226	\$	25,226	\$	-	\$	25,226
6 7	Contributions in Aid of Construction (CIAC) Less: Accumulated Amortization	\$	58,342 26,254	\$	58,342 26,254	\$	-	\$	58,342 26,254
8	Net CIAC	\$	32,088	\$	32,088	\$	-	\$	32,088
9	Total Advances and Contributions	\$	57,314	\$	57,314	\$	-	\$	57,314
10	Customer Deposits	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
11	Accumulated Deferred Income Taxes	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
	ADD: Working Capital								
12 13	Cash Working Capital Allowance Inventory	\$ \$	25,088 -	\$ \$	23,880 -	\$ \$	924	\$ \$	24,804 -
14	Total Rate Base	\$	859,067	\$	837,576	\$	21,207	\$	858,783

Exhibit B

Joshua Valley Utility Company Docket No. W-02023A-15-0315 Test Year Ended December 31, 2014

OPERATING INCOME - TEST YEAR AND ADOPTED

			[A]		[B]		[C]		[D]		[E]		[F]
LINE NO.	DESCRIPTION	TE	OMPANY ST YEAR S FILED	TE	STAFF ST YEAR ADJUSTED	ADJU	OOPTED JSTMENTS COMPANY		ST YEAR AS DOPTED		RO DOPTED JSTMENTS	<u>A</u> l	RO DOPTED
	REVENUES:					_			074 457	•	93.843	•	205 200
1	Metered Water Sales	\$	271,457	\$	271,457	\$	-	\$	271,457	\$ \$	93,843	\$	365,300
2	Water Sales - Unmetered		-		2 504		-		2 504	Ф	-		3,501
3	Other Operating Revenues		3,501		3,501				3,501				3,501
4	Total Revenues	\$	274,958	\$	274,958	\$	-	\$	274,958	\$	93,843	\$	368,801
5													
6	EXPENSES:												
7	Salaries and Wages	\$	103,971	\$	116,571	\$	20,000	\$	123,971	\$	-	\$	123,971
8	Salaries and Wages-Officers & Directors		-		-		-		-		-		-
9	Employee Pensions & Benefits		-		-		-		-		-		-
10	Purchased Power		24,854		24,854		-		24,854		-		24,854
11	Chemicals		-		-		-		-		-		-
12	Repairs and Maintenance		8,240		8,240		-		8,240		-		8,240
13	Office Supplies Expense		10,975		10,975		-		10,975		-		10,975
14	Contractual Services - Professional		-		-		-		-		-		-
15	Contractual Services - Billing		-		-		-		-		-		-
16	Contractual Services - All		21,718		1,718		(20,000)		1,718		-		1,718
17	Contractual Services - Water Testing		3,120		3,490		370		3,490		-		3,490
18	Contractual Services - Other		-		-		-		-		-		•
19	Rents		4,800		4,800		-		4,800		-		4,800
20	Rent - Equipment		-		-		-		-		•		-
21	Transportation Expense		14,945		14,945		-		14,945		-		14,945
22	Insurance - General Liability		6,953		6,953		-		6,953		-		6,953
23	Insurance - Life & Health		-		-		-		-		-		-
24	Reg. Comm. Exp Rate Case		7,500		7,500		-		7,500		-		7,500
25	Reg. Comm. Exp Other		-		-		-		-		-		•
26	Bad Debt Expense		2,642		2,642		-		2,642		-		2,642
27	Miscellaneous Expense		7,559		7,559		-		7,559		-		7,559
28	Depreciation Expense		50,066		49,867		390		50,456		-		50,456
29	Taxes Other Than Income		9,004		9,968		1,530		10,534		-		10,534
30	Property Taxes		10,583		10,583		(286)		10,297		1,171		11,468
31	Income Taxes		(2,406)		(1,123)		(305)		(2,711)		20,631		17,920
32	Interest Expense - Customer Deposits		-		-		-		-		-		-
33	Rounding		-		-		-		-		-		-
34	Total Operating Expenses	\$	284,524	\$	279,543	\$	1,699	\$	286,223	\$	21,802	\$	308,025
эr	Operating Income (Loss)	\$	(9,566)	s	(4,585)	\$	(1,699)	\$	(11,265)	\$	72,041	\$	60.776
35	Operating Income (Loss)	φ	(8,500)	Ψ	(4,505)	Ψ	(1,000)	<u> </u>	(11,200)		12,071		00,770

Joshua Valley Utility Company Docket No. W-02023A-15-0315 Test Year Ended December 31, 2014

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(J	RO ADOPTED ADJUSTMENTS RO TO STAFE ADOPTED	\$ 271,457 - 3,501	- \$ 274,958	7,400 \$ 123,971		- 24,854	' '	8,240			- 1,718	3,490		000,4	14.945	- 6,953	1	- 7,500	2 642	7,559	0		(286) 10,297 _U		·	T	6,482 \$ 286,024 Ô	(6,482) \$ (11,066). (0,066).	3A-15-(
	RO AD ADJUS TO S	₩	€9	69																							s	69	
Ξ	Staff Test Year As Adjusted	3,501	274,958	116,571		24,854	, ,	8,240	2 6,01		1,718	3,490	, 0	4,800	14.945	6,953		7,500	2 642	7.559	49,867	9,968	10,583	(1,123)	•		279,543	(4,585)	
	As/	6	€	€																							69	ь	
[6]	Income <u>Taxes</u>		•	,		•	•	•		•	,			1 1	•	٠	•				,	•	t	1,283	•		1,283	(1,283)	
		69	↔	€																							8	69	
E	Taxes Other Than Income	1 1	ı			,	•			•	•	•	•	, ,		•	•	•		•	1	964	•	•	1		964	(964)	
	Tax <u>Tha</u>	€>	€	↔																	_						69	φ.	
Ē	Depreciation Expence		,	•		,	•	1		•	•	•	•			,	•	•	1 1		(199)	` , '	•	•	•		(199)	199	
	Deg	€	€	€																						l	€	€	
<u>[</u>	Water <u>Testing</u>		ı	•			•	•	٠ ،	٠	•	370				•	•	•			•	•	ı	•	•		370	(370)	
		↔	€	↔							_																69	69	
<u></u>	Outside Services			•			•	•			(20,000)	•		•	, ,		•				•	•		•	1		(20,000)	20,000	
	O W	€	↔	€9																							€9	8	
[8]	Salaries & <u>Wages</u>	, , ,	•	12,600			•	•	, ,				•			,	•	•					•				12,600	(12,600)	
	ις σ	€9	€9	€																							89	€9	
₹	Company Test Year <u>As Filed</u>	271,457	274,958	103,971		24,854	•	8,240	6/6'0L	•	21,718	3,120	- 4	4,800	14 945	6,953	•	7,500	2642	7,559	50,066	9,004	10,583	(2,406)	•	٠	284,524	(9,566)	
		€	₩	↔	ď																					ı	မာ	€	
	DESCRIPTION	KEVENUES: Metered Water Sales Surcharge Collections Other Operating Revenues	Total Revenues	OPERATING EXPENSES: Salaries and Wages	Salaries and Wages-Officers & Directors	Employee Pensions & Denems Purchased Power	Chemicals	Repairs and Maintenance	Office Supplies Expense Contractual Services - Professional	Contractual Services - Billing	Contractual Services - All	Contractual Services - Water Testing	Contractual Services - Other	Rents	tent - Equipment Francoortation Expense	insurance - General Liability	nsurance - Life & Health	Reg. Comm. Exp Rate Case	Reg. Comm. Exp Other	bad Deot Expense Miscellaneous Expense	Depreciation Expense	Taxes Other Than Income	Property Taxes	income Taxes	interest Expense - Customer Deposits	Rounding	Total Operating Expenses	Operating Income (Loss)	

Exhibit D

Joshua Valley Utility Company Docket No. W-02023A-15-0315 Test Year Ended December 31, 2014

REVENUE REQUIREMENT

LINE			[A] DMPANY FINAL		[B] STAFF FINAL	Al	[C] RO DOPTED
<u>NO.</u>	DESCRIPTION	FAI	R VALUE	<u>FA</u>	IR VALUE	FA	IR VALUE
1	Adjusted Rate Base	\$	859,067	\$	837,576	\$	858,783
2	Adjusted Operating Income (Loss)	\$	(9,566)	\$	(4,585)	\$	(11,066)
3	Current Rate of Return (L2 / L1)		-1.11%		-0.55%		-1.29%
4	Required Rate of Return		7.38%		7.05%		7.10%
5	Required Operating Income (L4 * L1)	\$	63,428	\$	59,050	\$	60,931
6	Operating Income Deficiency (L5 - L2)	\$	72,994	\$	63,635	\$	71,997
7	Gross Revenue Conversion Factor		1.30148		1.30484		1.30343
8	Increase (Decrease) In Gross Revenue (L7 * L6)	\$	95,000	\$	83,033	\$	93,843
9	Adjusted Test Year Revenue	\$	274,958	\$	274,958	\$	274,958
10	Proposed Annual Revenue (L8 + L9)	\$	369,958	\$	357,991	\$	368,801
11	Required Increase/(Decrease in Revenue) (%) (L8/L9)		34.55%		30.20%		34.13%
12	Operating Margin		17.14%		16.49%		16.52%
13	Cash Flow Before Debt Service Reserve	\$	113,494	\$	108,917	\$	111,232
14	Cash Flow After Debt Service Reserve	\$	113,494	\$	108,917	\$	111,232

Dollar

Percent

Joshua Valley Utility Company Docket No. W-02023A-15-0315 Test Year Ended December 31, 2014

Typical Bill Analysis 5/8" 3/4" Residential

Proposed

Present

			Present	Proposed				Dollar	Percent
Company Proposed	Gallons		Rates	Rates				ncrease	Increase
Median Usage	945		\$ 16.71	\$ 22.28			\$	5.57	33.31%
Average Usage	2,408	. :	\$ 21.69	\$ 28.13			. \$	6.44	29.72%
Staff Recommended									
Median Usage	945		\$ 16.71	\$ 21.28			\$	4.57	27.33%
Average Usage	2,408	;	\$ 21.69	\$ 27.13			\$	5.44	25.11%
ADOPTED									
Median Hoose	945		\$ 16.71	\$ 22.28			\$	5.57	33.31%
Median Usage Average Usage	2,408		\$ 21.69				\$	6.44	29.72%
			All Rates Presente	d Without Ta	xes				
					Company			Staff	
Gallons	Present		ADOPTED	%	Proposed	%	Rec	ommended	%
							T		
	5/8" 3/4" Residen		5/8" 3/4" Res		5/8" 3/4" Residen			/8" 3/4" Re	
	Minimum Charge		Minimum Charge		Minimum Charge			um Charge	
	1st Tier Rate	\$3.40	1st Tier Rate	\$4.00	1st Tier Rate	\$4.00	l .	st Tier Rate	\$4.00
	1st Tier End		1st Tier Breakover	3,000	1st Tier Breakover	3,000	•	Breakover	3,000
	Incremental 2nd Tier Rate		Incremental Tier 2	\$1.25	Incremental Tier 2	\$1.25	i	ental Tier 2	\$1.20
	2nd Tier End	,	2nd Tier Breakover Incremental Tier 3	10,000	2nd Tier Breakover	10,000	1	Breakover	10,000
	Incremental 3rd Tier Rate	*		\$1.29	Incremental Tier 3	\$1.29 99.999.999	9	ental Tier 3	\$1.23
	3rd Tier End		3rd Tier Breakover		3rd Tier Breakover		4	Breakover	99,999,999
	Incremental 4th Tier Rate		Incremental Tier 4	\$0.00	Incremental Tier 4	\$0.00		ental Tier 4	\$0.00
	4th Tier End		4th Tier Breakover		4th Tier Breakover	. , ,		Breakover	99,999,999
	Incremental 5th Tier Rate		Incremental Tier 5	\$0.00	Incremental Tier 5	\$0.00	l.	ental Tier 5	\$0.00
	5th Tier End	,	5th Tier Breakover		5th Tier Breakover			Breakover	99,999,999
	Incremental 6th Tier Rate	\$0.00	Incremental Tier 6	\$0.00	Incremental Tier 6	\$0.00	increm	ental Tier 6	\$0.00
Consumption	Rates		Rates	Increase	Rates	Increase	•	Rates	Increase
	\$ 13.50		\$ 18.50	37.04%	\$ 18.50	37.04%	\$	17.50	29.63%
1,000	\$ 16.90		\$ 22.50	33.14%	\$ 22.50	33.14%		21.50	27.22%
2,000	\$ 20.30		\$ 26.50	30.54%	\$ 26.50	30.54%		25.50	25.62%
3,000	\$ 23.70		\$ 30.50	28.69%		28.69%		29.50	24.47%
4,000	\$ 27.10		\$ 35.75	31.92%	•	31.92%		34.70	28.04%
5,000	\$ 30.50		\$ 41.00	34.43%		34.43%		39.90	30.82%
6,000	\$ 34.40		\$ 46.25	34.45%		34.45%		45.10	31.10%
7,000	\$ 38.30		\$ 51.50	34.46%		34.46%		50.30	31.33%
8,000	\$ 42.20		\$ 56.75	34.48%		34.48%		55,50	31.52%
9,000	\$ 46.10		\$ 62.00	34.49%		34.49%		60.70	31.67%
10,000	\$ 50.00		\$ 67.25	34.50%		34.50%		65.90	31.80%
11,000	\$ 53.90		\$ 73.79	36.90%		36.90%		72.33	34.19%
12,000	\$ 57.80		\$ 80.33	38.98%		38.98%	•	78.7 6	36.26%
13,000	\$ 61.70		\$ 86.87	40.79%	\$ 86.87	40.79%	\$	85.19	38.07%
14,000	\$ 65.60		\$ 93.41	42.39%	\$ 93.41	42.39%	\$	91.62	39.66%
15,000	\$ 69.50		\$ 99.95	43.81%	\$ 99.95	43.81%	\$	98.05	41.08%
16,000	\$ 73.40		\$ 106.49	45.08%	\$ 106.49	45.08%	\$	104.48	42.34%
17,000	\$ 77.30		\$ 113.03	46.22%	\$ 113.03	46.22%	\$	110.91	43.48%
18,000	\$ 81.20		\$ 119.57	47.25%	\$ 119.57	47.25%	\$	117.34	44.51%
19,000	\$ 85.10		\$ 126.11	48.19%	\$ 126.11	48.19%	\$	123.77	45.44%
20,000	\$ 89.00		\$ 132.65	49.04%	\$ 132.65	49.04%	\$	130.20	46.29%
25,000	\$ 110.25		\$ 165.35	49.98%	\$ 165.35	49.98%	\$	162.35	47.26%
30,000	\$ 131.50		\$ 198.05	50.61%	\$ 198.05	50.61%	\$	194.50	47.91%
35,000	\$ 152.75		\$ 230.75	51.06%	\$ 230.75	51.06%	. \$	226,65	48.38%
40,000	\$ 174.00		\$ 263.45	51.41%	\$ 263.45	51.41%	\$	258.80	48.74%
45,000	\$ 195.25		\$ 296.15	51.68%	\$ 296.15	51.68%	\$	290.95	49.01%
50,000	\$ 216.50		\$ 328.85	51.89%		51.89%		323.10	49.24%
75,000	\$ 322.75		\$ 492.35	52.55%		52.55%		483.85	49.91%
100,000	\$ 429.00		\$ 655.85	52.88%		52.88%		644.60	50.26%
200,000	\$ 854.00		\$ 1,309.85	53.38%		53.38%		1,287.60	50.77%
500,000	\$ 2,129.00		\$ 3,271.85	53.68%		53.68%		3,216.60	51.09%
1,000,000	\$ 4,254.00		\$ 6,541.85	53.78%		53.78%		6,431.60	51.19%
2,000,000	\$ 8,504.00		\$ 13,081.85	53.83%		53.83%		12,861.60	51.24%
	φ 0,304.00		Ψ 10,001.00	30.0076	Ψ 10,001.03	30.0370	Ψ	.2,001.00	J1.44 /